Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 NSC-05 USIE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 L-03 /055 R

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MTDIXON:DKM APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:RLBARRY EB/OA:MHSTYLES

-----142350Z 080821 /62

O 142317Z APR 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UR, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOVIET HARASSMENT RE PAN AM CHARTER

1. PAN AM NY CONTACTED DEPARTMENT, APRIL 14, TO REPORT FOLLOWING: PAN AM HAS SCHEDULED CHARTER DEPARTING LENINGRAD APRIL 15. ACCORDING TO PLAN, AIRCRAFT TO LEAVE EMPTY FROM HELSINKI, 10 AM MOSCOW TIME AND ARRIVE LENINGRAD, 11 AM TO PICK UP PASSENGERS, FOR RETURN TO US WITH FUEL STOP AT HELSINKI. PAN AM MOSCOW, WHILE SEEKING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CLEARANCE, WAS ADVISED BY THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION THAT IT CANNOT USE THE AIRWAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETWEEN LENINGRAD AND HELSINKI. NO REASONS WERE GIVEN FOR DENIAL OF ACCESS TO AIRWAY BUT SOVIETS HAVE REFERRED TO ARTICLE 1, PARA 2 (A) (1) OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT TO THE 1966 CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE USE OF TWO OTHER SPECIFIED AIRWAYS. THIS PROVISION, PAN AM POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, ONLY RELATES TO SCHEDULED SERVICES. PAN AM CHECK WITH FAA SHOWS THAT AEROFLOT CHARTERS OFTEN ARE GRANTED AIRWAYS OTHER

THAN THOSE SPECIFIED FOR AEROFLOT IN ARTICLE 1, PARA 2
(B) (1) OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT. FURTHER,
ARTICLE 9 OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION STATES THAT NO ICAO
MEMBER CAN CLOSE AIRWAYS IN DISCRIMINATORY MANNER.
SOVIETS ARE APPARENTLY LETTING AEROFLOT AND FINNAIR USE

HELSINKI-LENINGRAD AIRWAY. RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION IN LENINGRAD HAS ALREADY PUT PAN AM UNDER WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS. IF PAN AM IS DENIED USE OF AIRWAY TO HELSINKI GOING OUT OF THE USSR, IT WILL HAVE TO LEAVE FORTY PASSENGERS BEHIND SINCE AIRCRAFT WILL HAVE TO FLY MORE CIRCUITOUS ROUTE TO STOCKHOLM RATHER THAN HELSINKI FOR REFUELING.

- 2. CHARTER NOW SCHEDULED TO LEAVE LENINGRAD 1:30 PM MOSCOW TIME. PAN AM MOSCOW REP IS ATTEMPTING TO MAKE APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION FOR 9 AM, APRIL 15 IN ATTEMPT TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THIS MATTER BUT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH A MINISTRY DUTY OFFICER. DRAHAROD IS BEING INSTRUCTED TO COORDINATE EFFORTS WITH EMBASSY.
- 3. PAN AM BELIEVES THIS IS INTENTIONAL HARASSMENT. AT VERY LEAST, SOVIET ACTIONS APPEAR TO BE MISINTERPRETATIONS OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT AND CHICAGO CONVENTION.
- 4. REQUEST EMBASSY LEND APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE.

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Message Attributes

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